

National Anti-Slavery Standard.

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NEW YORK, SATURDAY, MAY 28, 1864.

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National Anti-Slavery Standard
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THE STANDARD.

THE LEGAL STATUS OF COLORED
SOLDIERS.

from Gov. Andrew to J. M. Langston

Mr. J. M. Langston, Editor of "The National Anti-Slavery Standard," New York City:

Enclosed find a letter from Gov. John A. Andrew, of Massachusetts, which contains the Law of

Massachusetts, in regard to the status of colored soldiers

in the American army. It is due that old Commonwealth itself, itself, should be published, in connection with the

opinion of the Attorney-General of the United States

on the pay of colored soldiers. To Gov. Andrew

the honor of commanding all others

in America, as men and citizens, to take up

in defense of the government against the rebel

and their honor the law in regard to them.

I am not alone in this opinion; for ex Gov.

Gov. Andrew certainly states the law; his

irresistible. Gov. Denison then showed it to me

and he said, "Gov. Andrew certainly states the

Respectfully yours,

J. M. LANGSTON.

JOHN M. LANGSTON,

DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS, EXECUTIVE

DEPARTMENT, Boston, July 4th, 1863.

M. LANGSTON, Esq., Oberlin, Ohio:

Sir: By Act of 17th July, 1862 (being

11th chap. 196), "the President of the United

States is authorized to employ as many persons

as he may see fit, and use them in such

service as he may judge best for the public welfare."

Under act of the same date, being chap. 20, in

sec. 2, it enacted that "the enrollment of all

adults of both sexes, including all able-bodied male

adults between the ages of eighteen and forty-five, in

the service of the United States, is to be made,

and the same is to be done in the manner and

form, and manner, respectively of their color.

The Act of sec. 1, last cited, therefore, beyond any

includes men of color in enrolled militia.

Under the laws of the State, the commandant

of colored troops, have now been proved, in

Massachusetts, in the superior and exemplary, in the

best sense.

In order that I may answer your request for

my opinion, with respect to the legal back

ing of the Union and renew its current services

form, I will, affording the information of some

respectively of their color.

The Act of sec. 1, last cited, therefore, beyond any

includes men of color in enrolled militia.

Under the laws of the United States for

the purpose of constructing intrenchments, or

per-
forming camp service, or any other labor, or

any naval or service for which they may be

capable, and including all able-bodied men

under the age of twenty-one years, who are

not inconsistent with the Constitution and laws,

and for a considerable time previous under such

regulations as those in force, and

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National Anti-Slavery Standard.

WITHOUT CONCEALMENT—WITHOUT COMPROMISE.

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, MAY 28, 1864.

THE SITUATION.

The sanguine temperament has its drawbacks as well as its advantages. Of all the gifts of God it is the one that most contributes to dull happiness. It makes us too passive—too inactive. Behind the dark clouds and through the day in the gloom of the midnight midnight. But, on the other hand, it is apt to take discouragement easily and to forebode evil and disaster from facts which may not be prophetic of ill, of necessity. A fortnight ago the whole loyal North were sanguine of a speedy and crowning victory. Grant was leading Lee before him; Butler had cut off the rebel communications with the South; Sigel was making assurance wholly safe, and the capture of Richmond and the downfall of the Confederacy was a fact all but accomplished. Our readers will bear us witness that we did not share in those buoyant moods, though we too, were happily endowed with a sanguine complexion. We rejoiced in the beginning—but not long—when we saw the progress of the war, and not the end of the conflict. The experience of the past ten days has shown us that this was even so. Grant has not yet got Lee to an amphibious fight; Butler has not yet taken Richmond or even Fort Darling, and Sigel is repulsed and superseded. The rebel communications with the South are not cut off, and reinforcements have undoubtedly reached Lee from that region. Terrible fighting has yet to be had—perhaps, as ever since this moment going on. The work is not done, but it is well begun, and there is no reason for despondency in view of the situation. As a consequence of the excitability of the American people, we are apt to experience a depressing correspondence low in proportion to the height of our previous exaltation. And something of this reaction has marred the popular feeling for the past week; but, as we think, without sufficient reason.

The expectation that Grant could crush such an army as Lee's at a single blow, or by a succession of blows in a brief space of time, was a moral and military absurdity. We have permitted the rebel government to consolidate its forces, to raise them to the highest point consistent with existence, and to drill and discipline them to an admirable degree of perfection. The misfortune which threw the Army of the Potomac into the palely hands of McClellan, and which confined him in his command after his incompetency, if not his treachery, was parent to all mankind, has given the rebel government more than two years of preparation, years which they have used with great ability and most despotic abuse of power. They have used three years to make their Capital as nearly impregnable as an engineering science can make a city, to collect the whole fighting population under arms, to excite and exasperate their passions against their "invaders," to provide them with the best of arms and abundance of ammunition, and to place them under the command of experienced, able and desperate officers. They are fighting on their own soil, in a country of which they know every inch, and with the advantage of the fatal turn of the scales, in their favor or against us. We have been upon the field they now occupy. Desperate fighting is the necessary consequence, and dubious results for a season, as inevitable. We have made these men the soldiers that they are. We have taught them language, as Prospero did to Caliban, and the uses they make of it is to curse us. We have given them time and opportunity, and by our own operations on the Mississippi, we have fed and armed them, as it is nothing strange that they are almost a match for us. We will hope and believe not. That Grant should not have pushed on beyond Spotsylvania, does Butler should not have carried Fort Darling, that Sigel should have been repulsed through the Valley of the Shenandoah, should not surprise us, much less amaze and dismay us. It is the natural and necessary course of things.

While we cannot deny the courage and conduct which mark the fighting and the handling of the rebels, we must remember that the fighting and the putting in order in fight are carried on under new conditions. Our own army was never so numerous, so well appointed, and so well led as now. The McClellan lethargy is at last shaken off. A General in earnest, and whom his troops believe to be so, lies in his hand. That is all that it finds its birth on the part of resolution where they seem now to stand. Then Butler's position is still good and tenable and greatly damaging to the enemy, while Sherman is making good use of the diversion of the rebels towards Richmond to push onward towards Atlanta. The plan of Grant is, probably, working itself out, quite as well as he ever expected that it would, and we see no reason to doubt that he will succeed. We suppose no fierce fighting was ever had in the same space of time than that of the week of battles. No one battle was unequivocally decided in favor of either party; but the preponderance of advantages has been greatly on our side. And so we believe it must continue to be. The fate of the rebellion will be decided in this campaign. Is it a finger for a while and drag out a spasmodic existence; but its life will be gone, if Grant's campaign be carried out as it was planned. It will not be done early, or without a dear expense of precious lives, but it will be done.

The situation, therefore, with all its uncertainties looks prosperously to us. To Abolitionists, who look upon this war as the inevitable consequence of slavery and the just punishment of the nation for its guilt, that regard, the whole course of events seems to have been preordained by an all-powerful Providence. The very slowness of success is an essential element, even yet, in a true victory. We are those delays that the slave will owe his speedier freedom, and the nation its release from its entanglement with his chains. A greater haste would have had a worse speeding. The rebellion would have been put down in the Sixty or Ninety days, if when Mr. Seward spoke, and slavery might have been saved. McClellan might have been in Richmond in December, 1861, had he chosen, and the rebellion would have been ended by terms of the rebels' disbanding people—the labor and virtue of the Republic—have spoken in our national Capitol, whose voices were never heard there before.

Those unaccustomed to balance influences, who judge the importance of movements by their apparent results, may deem our efforts lost, because the Amend. and Emancipation bills have not yet passed the House. Let us feel that this is not the case. In the chamber of trade and politicians, in our lectures and letters, public and private, we have done as much to kill the rebellion, by educating the people for the final blow, as any other organization, civil, political, military or religious, in the land.

Could you but read the many earnest, thrilling letters we have received from simple men and women, in their rural homes, you would have fresh hope for the stability of our Republic; remembering that the life of a nation depends on the virtue of its people, and not on the dignity of its rulers.

One poor, infirm woman in Wisconsin, who had lost

her husband and all her sons in the war, travelled on foot over one hundred miles in gathering four thousand names. Her name is filled with joy the world over, as she is doing so much for the cause of liberty. Follow us in imagination, through sleep and snow, from house to house; listen to her words—mark the pathos of her voice, as she relates the question of freedom, or tells some tale of horror in the land of slavery, or asks her neighbors, one by one, to give the names of men to end such wrongs. Again from the same lips, "I find that she comes in stories, on foot, to all an argument, that there is something wrong in the republic, demanding her aid and action from every citizen."

You who, in crowded towns, move masses by your eloquence, scorn not the slower modes. Remember the seeds of enthusiasm you call forth have been planted by hundred bands—by the freemen, the old and young, in the workshops at the plow—wherever man communes with man, and acts with man.

Our world is the past year—and what must still be the future? Until the Union is broken, and our Constitution so far as to cure the electric fire to all its claims is well satisfied, who bears arms to a nation, we have no foundation to stand on.

We urge our countrymen to do all we can to help the association—in the way of money and freedom, and to help the noblest of all causes.

The President, ELIZABETH CARY STANTON, called the meeting to order, and requested the audience to observe a moment of silence, that each soul might seek for Divine guidance through the deliberations of the meeting.

The Corresponding Secretary, CHARLOTTE R. WATSON, read the Call of the meeting as heretofore published in this paper.

The Recording Secretary read the Report of the Executive Committee:

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF THE WOMEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE. May 1, 1864.

One year ago we formed ourselves into a league, with the declared object of executing thirty millions of people into the true idea of a Christian Republic.

Whilst, as yet, we might not present to the broad world the noblest of all causes, we have done much to minister to an electric fire, to hospital, and on the battle-field, to strengthen the wounds of dying heroes by the magic word of freedom, to open up to us.

Four years ago the thought only was of the land of the free and the home of the brave. We knew the war was raging, but did not know the secret of that.

Now, we are, and the shrills and the shrieks and

the lamentations of husbands and wives, parents

and children, unlored forever from each other. Then we fed and clothed, and sheltered the fugitives in their weary marches where the North Star led, and crowned with immortal wreaths the passing heroes, pursued by the bloodhounds from the verges of Florida, who asked but to die in freedom, under the shadow of a mountain.

Now, the rebellion has been raging near a century on cotton field and rice plantation. Every vine, hardship and abomination, suffered by our soldiers in the war, has been the daily life in slavery. Yet no Northern volunteers marched to the black man's help, though he stood alone against such fearful odds, until John Brown and his twenty-three men threw themselves into the deadly breach.

What a sublime spectacle! Behold! the black man, forgetting all our crimes, all his wrongs for generations, now nobly takes up arms in our defense. Look not Greece or Rome for heroes—Jerusalem or Mecca for saints—but for the highest virtues of heroism, let us worship the black man at our feet.

Mother, redeem the past by teaching your children the limits of human rights, with the same exactness that you now teach the multiplication table. That "all men are created equal" is a far more important fact for a child to understand, than that twice two makes four.

Had we during the past century so firmly guarded the tree of liberty, with its blessed fruits of equality, as have Southern mothers the deadly ups of slavery; the blood of our sons and sons, mingled with the sweat and tears of slaves, would not have enriched the tyrant's soil, our hearth stones would not all be desolate, nor we, with shame, behold our northern statesmen in the nation's councils floundering in doubt and perplexity on the parts of slavery, or of its like-warm sympathies. Let this idea be trampled out, and there will be no sympathy with the rebellion; and there will be no such abomination as slave-hunting, which is beyond question the most execrable feature of slavery itself. Accept my thanks, and believe me,

Madam, faithfully yours, CHARLES SCHWEITZER.

Mrs. SUSAN B. ANTHONY.

Speeches were then made by George Thompson, Lucretia Mott and Estarine L Rose; after which the meeting adjourned to Saturday afternoon at the 14th.

Increasing our ability to meet the vast expenditures of the

WASHINGON, May 4, 1864.

LETTER FROM JAMES FREIGHTON.

WASHINGON, D. C., April 29, 1864.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

My dear friend, I have come to hand

you your seal, which was published and endorsed by your paper, as you will see by the enclosed slip.

Our sentiments are as high and noble that

is favorable result and report from the West would

be to follow the true instincts, best impulses,

no such fears; and I do not believe that

the Government, or any members of it, are

so bad that they do not like criticism, slighting,

or belittling, as it is done by the press.

It should be remembered that these men are engaged

in criticizing public men themselves, and especially

now, Cabinet ministers, priests and newspaper men,

and they do not like it when newspaper critics do the same.

It is not true of a majority of them, but it is

gross—perhaps not of a majority of them, but it is

very many. I have been led, by the reverse

complaints of public men, and especially of members

of Congress, that they do not like being

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